
Minutes Commission on Disability Concerns November 20, 2007

Minutes of the Commission on Disability Concerns meeting held November 20, 2007, at the Tempe Public Library, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Chair Janie Shelton, Aaron Edgell, Cyndi Newburn, Mason Murphy, Matthew Jellison, Larry Randall, Jacque Olsen, Linda Bergevin (telephone), Tom Ringhofer, Paul Bennewitz

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Co Vice-Chair Darrell Shandrow, Nora Nuñez, Frank Emery (unable to participate by telephone because of equipment failure)

Staff Present:

Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

Guests present:

Megan Thomas, ASU Student, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism

Meeting convened at 7:04 p.m., Chair Janie Shelton called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Larry Randall moved that the minutes from the October 16, 2007 meeting be approved. Commissioner Mason Murphy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Appearances:

None

1. Introduction of new Commissioners – Chair Janie Shelton

- New Commissioners Cyndi Newburn and Aaron Edgell gave a brief Bio about their education and work histories, as well as their interests in serving on this particular Commission. Current Commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed the new members. There are still two positions to be filled, with several people who have recently submitted applications.

2. Dial-A-Ride Update – Darrell Shandrow

- No report.

3. Vial of Life – Larry Randall

- Commissioner Larry Randall reported that he will order 500 vials for potential new participants and 200 update forms for those already participating in the Vial-of-Life program. He has not heard from Tempe St. Lukes Hospital. Karl Stephens will

contact the Marketing Director at Tempe St. Lukes Hospital since they have not provided the updated forms, as promised. The Diversity office has also not received the updated forms, so that they can be translated into Spanish.

4. Report from the Child-Ability Committee – Linda Bergevin

- Commissioner Linda Bergevin participated by telephone, updating everyone that she and Nora Nuñez had difficulty communicating during the month to work much on this project. Commissioner Bergevin summarized the issues leading to the formation of this Committee for the new members. She also informed members that she had coincidentally received a recent parent survey from the High School District that has given her some ideas about the survey this committee is working on.

5. Report from the Committee on Architectural Accessibility – Tom Ringhofer

- Commissioner Ringhofer reported significant progress was made to correcting the problems related to no sidewalk access on the vacant lot north of the Post Office on Priest, north of Warner. This was a very bad situation with no firm, stable ground, much less a sidewalk. This situation has been corrected and Commissioner Ringhofer will contact appropriate City officials to offer our thanks for correcting this situation.
- The Broadway Apartments situation continues to be a bad situation because the roadway and sidewalks are so uneven, as is the poor lighting. The situation is quite dangerous for people with disabilities who use mobility equipment.
- Commissioner Randall gave information about how the Fire Departments in Phoenix, Glendale and Mesa deal with speed bumps on private property by requiring breaks in the speed bumps for the truck tires. A similar situation may be able to assist wheelchair users in Tempe, although the need for a safe, accessible pathway in this instance may still be in question if the only break is in the middle of the driveway.
- A site near McClintock and Baseline with some previous access concerns did follow through with painting some access corridors for wheelchair safety, as agreed upon.

6. Parks and Recreation Committee Update -

- No report.

7. Mayor's Awards Committee Update – Paul Bennewitz

- Draft minutes of the November 1 meeting were sent to each Commissioner. Committee Chair, Commissioner Paul Bennewitz, gave additional information to the entire group about the upcoming 2008 celebration, potentially slated for May 8, depending upon the Mayor's availability. A potential keynote speaker will be attending the December 6 Committee meeting for a brief presentation to the group.

8. Tempe Rental Housing Concerns – Aaron Edgell

- Commissioner Edgell expressed personal concerns about the lack of accessible rental apartments and single family homes in Tempe. He has had a difficult time trying to secure even very basic wheelchair access in older units pre-dating the ADA and Fair Housing Act mandates for accessibility. Discussion regarding this ongoing issue included seeking possible grant funds for basic access including ramped entrance/exit, widened interior doorways and at least one accessible bathroom. Additional discussion items included possible community grants for some basic retrofit funding as well as possible partnerships with the Multi-family Housing Assn. and with groups such as Habitat for Humanity.

9. Diversity/ADA Office Update

Staff Liaison Karl Stephens made the following announcements:

- The recent Tempe Learning Center Boards and Commission Training highlighted many rules and regulations governing how such bodies can legally perform their functions, as well as communicate with each other and the public.

Topics for Future Meetings:

Staff Liaison Karl Stephens asked the commission to email any topics or ideas on guest speakers for future commission meetings. One suggestion was to contact Jim Maldonado of Development Services Dept. to discuss their role in the City Government.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 PM

Prepared by: Karl Stephens

 Karl W. Stephens
Staff Liaison, ADA Compliance Specialist